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Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Payroll jobs and wages estimates, sourced from Single Touch Payroll (STP) data

Reference period Week ending 12 February 2022

Released 10/03/2022

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Key statistics

Between the weeks ending 29 January 2022 and 12 February 2022:

- Payroll jobs, up 0.8%
- Total wages, up 2.7%

Update of jobholder characteristics

This release includes an update to jobholder characteristics, resulting in revisions to all sex, age and geography indexes. These revisions are greater in 2021 and impact component indexes differently. For more information, see the Update of jobholder characteristics section in [Methods review \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#methods-review\)](#).

The ABS recommends that analyses of previously published estimates be refreshed with updated data from this release.

Revisions

This release sees higher than usual revisions in November 2021, as the 16 week imputation retention threshold passes through this period. These revisions mostly reflect the removal of previously imputed records, with the receipt of more complete data. Users should exercise caution when referring to estimates around this period.

National

In the fortnight to 12 February 2022:

- Payroll jobs increased by 0.8%, compared to an increase of 2.0% in the previous fortnight
- Total wages paid increased by 2.7%, compared to an increase of 1.0% in the previous fortnight

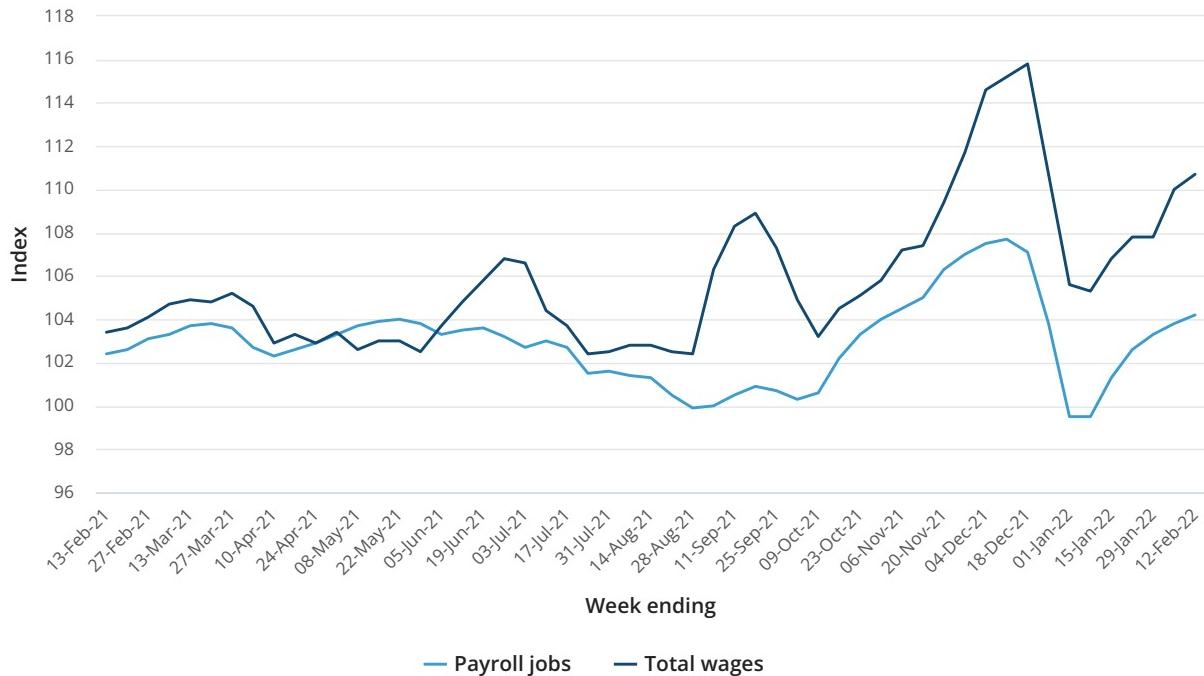
Percentage change in payroll jobs and total wages

	In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
Payroll jobs	0.8%	2.8%	1.8%
Total wages	2.7%	3.7%	7.0%

Estimates of changes throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded index values. They may be different from, but are more accurate than, movements obtained from the

rounded index values.

Payroll jobs and total wages index (a)(b)



- a. Indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020.
- b. Payroll jobs and wages data during June and July see a greater variation in business payroll reporting around the end of financial year. For more information, see Variation in revisions in [Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#data-variability-and-revisions\).](#)

State and territory

Payroll jobs

All geographical areas in this release represent the residential address of the jobholder.

In the fortnight to 12 February 2022, the largest changes in payroll jobs were:

- Northern Territory, up 2.0%
- South Australia, up 1.4%

State and territory percentage change in payroll jobs, in the fortnight to 12 February 2022

Loading map...

Percentage change in payroll jobs, by state and territory

	In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
New South Wales	0.9%	3.3%	0.2%
Victoria	1.0%	3.4%	1.9%
Queensland	0.1%	1.9%	2.4%
South Australia	1.4%	2.9%	1.7%
Western Australia	0.8%	1.8%	4.5%
Tasmania	0.9%	2.1%	3.3%
Northern Territory	2.0%	3.6%	2.8%
Australian Capital Territory	1.3%	3.0%	2.9%
Australia	0.8%	2.8%	1.8%

Total wages

In the fortnight to 12 February 2022, the largest changes in total wages paid were:

- New South Wales, up 3.6%

- Western Australia, up 3.1%

Percentage change in total wages, by state and territory

	In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
New South Wales	3.6%	4.7%	5.8%
Victoria	2.3%	4.3%	7.2%
Queensland	1.8%	2.5%	7.3%
South Australia	2.5%	3.1%	7.0%
Western Australia	3.1%	3.6%	9.9%
Tasmania	1.4%	1.8%	7.0%
Northern Territory	1.8%	-12.9%	6.0%
Australian Capital Territory	1.9%	3.3%	7.2%
Australia	2.7%	3.7%	7.0%

a. Northern Territory wages estimates in mid-January 2022 included one-off payments across a number of industries.

Sub-state - payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by sub-state regions (Statistical Area 4 (SA4), Statistical Area 3 (SA3) and Greater Capital City Area (GCCSA) regions) are presented as index values in Table 5 of the Data downloads.

For more information on the geography used in this release, see the [Glossary](#) ([/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#glossary](#)).

GCCSA regions percentage change in payroll jobs, in the fortnight to 12 February 2022

Loading map...

The ACT only has one GCCSA region for the entire Territory.

Sex and age group

Persons aged 15-19 years old by sex indexes can be affected by a higher proportion of records with unknown sex than other age group indexes. For more information, see the Update of jobholder characteristics in the [Methods review \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#methods-review\)](#).

Payroll jobs

In the fortnight to 12 February 2022, the largest changes in payroll jobs were:

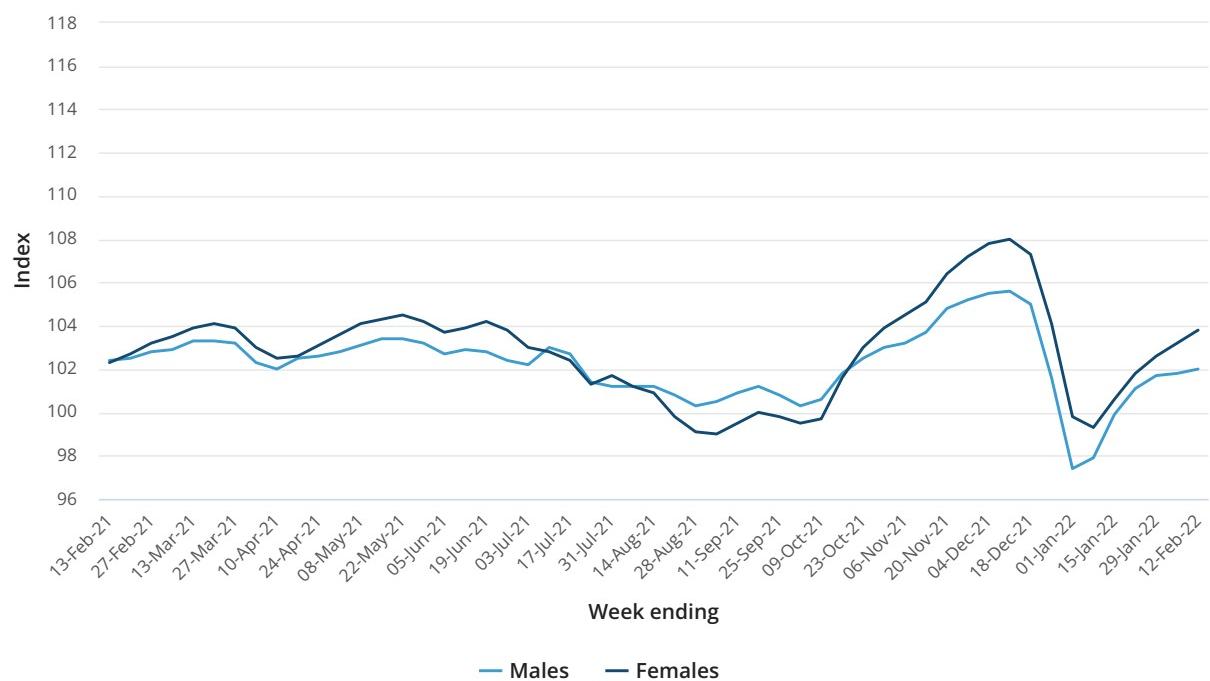
- worked by females, up 1.2%
- worked by persons aged 70 and over, up 2.8%

Percentage change in payroll jobs, by sex and age group (a)

		In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
Sex	Males	0.3%	2.0%	-0.4%
	Females	1.2%	3.2%	1.5%
Age group (years)	15-19	0.5%	6.2%	7.6%
	20-29	1.1%	4.1%	1.5%
	30-39	0.6%	2.0%	0.9%
	40-49	0.7%	2.0%	0.7%
	50-59	0.7%	2.0%	1.4%
	60-69	1.5%	2.8%	3.9%
	70 and over	2.8%	4.2%	5.0%
	All persons	0.8%	2.8%	1.8%

a. Persons with 'unknown' sex and age are only included in the calculation of All persons indexes. For more information, see Inclusion of unknown characteristics in [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#how-data-are-processed\)](#).

Payroll jobs by sex(a)



a. Indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020.

Total wages

In the fortnight to 12 February 2022, the largest changes in total wages paid were:

- worked by males, up 3.1%
- worked by persons aged 40-49, up 3.3%

Percentage change in total wages, by sex and age group (a)

		In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
Sex	Males	3.1%	4.1%	5.4%
	Females	2.1%	2.9%	8.2%
Age group (years)	15-19	-3.0%	3.7%	20.3%
	20-29	2.1%	5.4%	8.4%
	30-39	2.8%	3.4%	6.2%
	40-49	3.3%	3.7%	5.6%
	50-59	2.9%	3.3%	6.8%
	60-69	2.5%	2.7%	9.4%
	70 and over	2.0%	1.8%	12.4%
	All persons	2.7%	3.7%	7.0%

a. Persons with 'unknown' sex and age are only included in the calculation of All persons indexes. For more information, see Inclusion of unknown characteristics in [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#how-data-are-processed\)](#).

5 year age groups - Payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by 5 year age groups by sex are presented as index values in Table 8 of the Data downloads.

Industry

Payroll jobs

In the fortnight to 12 February 2022, the largest changes in payroll jobs were:

- Education and training, up 7.4%
- Administrative and support services, up 1.5%

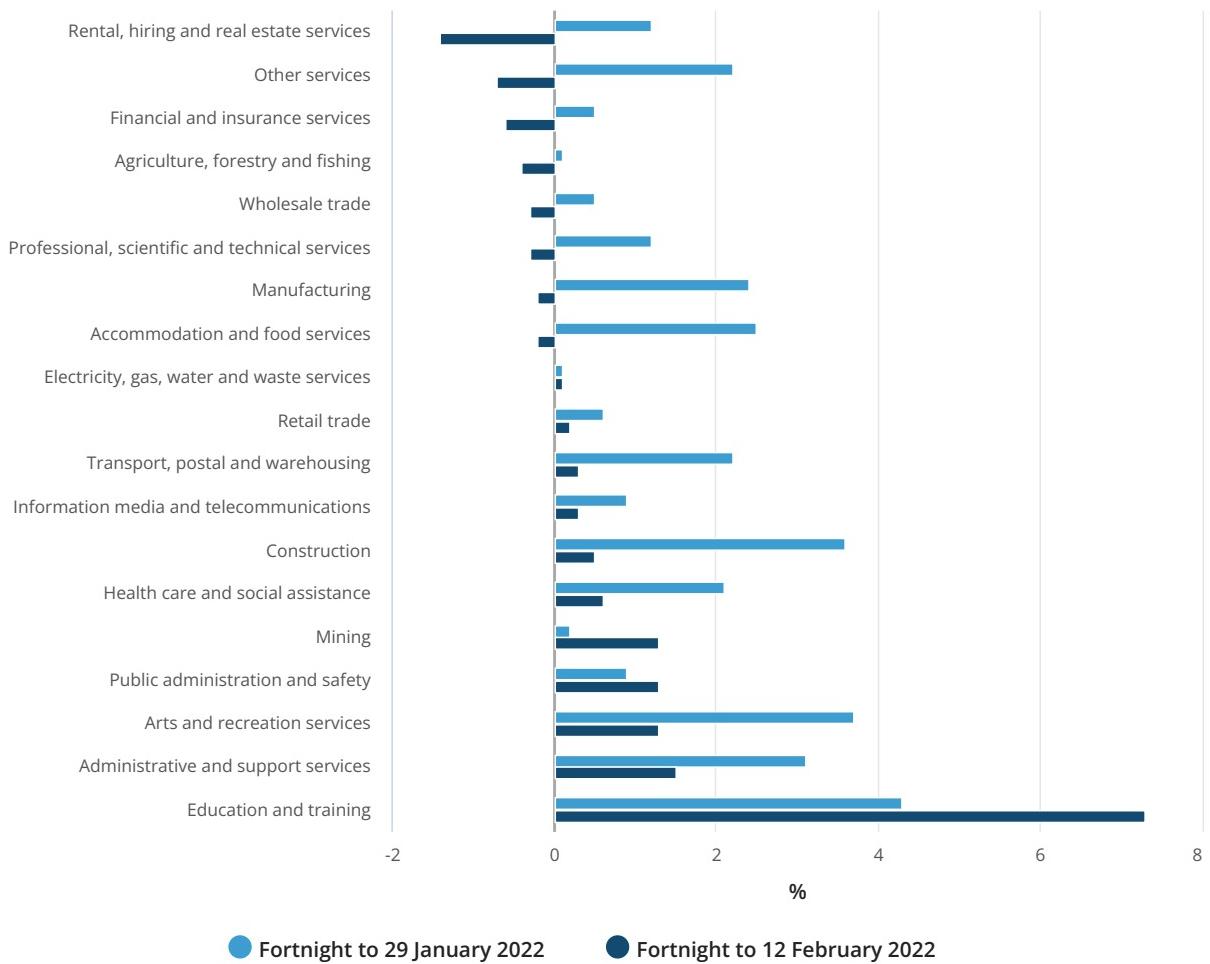
Percentage change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)

	In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-0.4%	-0.3%	-2.3%

	In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
Mining	1.3%	1.5%	6.7%
Manufacturing	-0.2%	2.2%	-2.2%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	0.1%	0.2%	1.4%
Construction	0.5%	4.1%	-2.5%
Wholesale trade	-0.3%	0.3%	-0.5%
Retail trade	0.2%	0.8%	1.6%
Accommodation and food services	-0.2%	2.3%	-10.8%
Transport, postal and warehousing	0.3%	2.5%	-3.5%
Information media and telecommunications	0.3%	1.2%	1.3%
Financial and insurance services	-0.6%	-0.1%	3.0%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-1.4%	-0.3%	-1.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	-0.3%	0.9%	2.7%
Administrative and support services	1.5%	4.7%	1.4%
Public administration and safety	1.3%	2.2%	2.6%
Education and training	7.4%	11.9%	1.4%
Health care and social assistance	0.6%	2.7%	3.0%
Arts and recreation services	1.3%	5.0%	-0.9%
Other services	-0.7%	1.5%	-5.9%
All industries	0.8%	2.8%	1.8%

a. Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in either payroll jobs and wages or both. For more information, see Seasonality in [Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#data-variability-and-revisions\)](#).

Percentage change in payroll jobs by industry(a)



a. Industries ranked by percentage change in the latest fortnight.

Total wages

In the fortnight to 12 February 2022, the largest changes in total wages paid were:

- Mining, up 11.8%
- Education and training, up 6.9%

Percentage change in total wages, by industry(a)

	In the fortnight since 29 January 2022	In the month since 15 January 2022	In the year since 13 February 2021
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1.2%	-0.2%	3.6%
Mining	11.8%	12.4%	13.8%
Manufacturing	4.6%	6.1%	1.9%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	2.6%	4.0%	5.7%
Construction	5.1%	7.9%	1.9%
Wholesale trade	5.0%	5.1%	3.9%
Retail trade	-0.4%	-3.2%	3.9%
Accommodation and food services	-2.8%	1.0%	-2.4%
Transport, postal and warehousing	0.7%	2.1%	1.5%
Information media and telecommunications	6.1%	7.3%	6.3%
Financial and insurance services	1.2%	1.2%	2.9%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-0.5%	-1.7%	6.4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	4.9%	5.5%	9.5%
Administrative and support services	4.1%	7.1%	7.4%
Public administration and safety	2.7%	0.8%	8.5%
Education and training	6.9%	8.2%	5.5%
Health care and social assistance	-2.4%	0.2%	8.0%
Arts and recreation services	-1.0%	2.4%	4.0%
Other services	-0.3%	1.9%	1.4%
All industries	2.7%	3.7%	7.0%

a. Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in either payroll jobs and wages or both. For more information, see Seasonality in [Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#data-variability-and-revisions\)](#).

Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision are presented as index values in Table 6 of the Data downloads. For more information on the industry classifications used in this release, see the [Glossary \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#glossary\)](#).

Private sector industry - Payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by private sector for selected industry divisions are presented as index values in Table 9 of the Data downloads. More information on the sector classification can be found in Updating characteristics variables in [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#how-data-are-processed\)](#) and the [Glossary \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#glossary\)](#).

Employment size

The ABS has previously advised caution in using the most recent periods in payroll jobs by employment size indexes, which are subject to higher than usual revisions over a longer period - particularly for small employers. These indexes are more heavily influenced by changes in reporting behaviour and reporting obligations than other indexes, affecting the interpretation of underlying change in labour market conditions. To provide more stability at the end point of these series, a month lag in the reference week is in place.

In this release the latest week of data for these indexes is for the week ending 15 January 2022, which is also reflected in the percentage change estimates presented.

Percentage change in payroll jobs by employment size(a)(b)

	In the fortnight since 1 January 2022	In the month since 18 December 2021	In the year since 16 January 2021
Under 20 employees	3.5%	-7.4%	5.5%
20-199 employees	3.6%	-5.2%	-2.1%
200 employees and over	0.3%	-4.4%	1.4%
All businesses	1.8%	-5.4%	1.7%

a. Records with 'unknown' employment size are only included in the calculation of All businesses indexes.
For more information, see Revisions in sub-populations in [Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies](#)

[/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#data-variability-and-revisions\).](#)

- b. With respect to the week ending 15 January 2022.

Distribution of characteristics

To aid in the interpretability of payroll job estimates, the following data download contains selected distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics by state and territory.

Records with 'unknown' characteristics have been excluded from the calculation of proportions. For more information on the source, impact and proportion of unknowns, see the Updating characteristic variables and Inclusion of unknown characteristics sections of [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#how-data-are-processed\)](#).

Table 20: Payroll jobs - characteristics distributions

Contains selected distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics, available in this release since 9 September 2021.

[!\[\]\(ef57557257cbb5c674d51a9e0a98bb4d_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[171.4 KB]

Data downloads

Table 4: Payroll jobs and wages indexes

[!\[\]\(da54fa747b6713d79175de3c1d218b58_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[3.71 MB]

Table 5: Sub-state - Payroll jobs indexes

[!\[\]\(2644880428d95a4203ef0ba60cd1b089_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[333.36 KB]

Table 6: Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs indexes

[!\[\]\(9a99019727d98276b5a0e99eaa8a1a8e_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[91.14 KB]

Table 7: Employer characteristics - Payroll jobs index

[!\[\]\(e7333b044f927d371647bc5699c46b55_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[53.2 KB]

Table 8: Jobholder characteristics - Payroll jobs index

Contains estimates of payroll jobs by 5 year age groups.

[!\[\]\(af9072107bc8b9304abb99c80a6fe165_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[60.61 KB]

Table 9: Sector - Payroll jobs index

Contains estimates of payroll jobs by private sector for selected industry divisions, available in this release since 7 October 2021.

[!\[\]\(2020723f97c3fe13d8ecf52b30807736_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[49.84 KB]

All data cubes

[!\[\]\(7a315dbd5736d1ca324577d88145843b_img.jpg\) Download ZIP](#)

[2.97 MB]

Changes in this release

The following section was updated in this release:

- Upcoming changes: text updated

The following sections of the Methodology have been updated in this release:

- Methods review: new subsection on Update of jobholder characteristics
- Methods review: Update of employer characteristics text integrated with How data are processed
- Data variability and revisions: Impact of unknown sex subsection removed

Upcoming changes

Update to thematic grouping and navigation on the ABS website

Labour themes and navigation on the ABS website to change on 25 March 2022

As [previously advised \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/latest-release#upcoming-changes\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/latest-release#upcoming-changes), the thematic groupings and navigation for labour statistics on the ABS website are being updated to better reflect the current range of available labour statistics, better align key labour market concepts with website themes and navigation, and improve discoverability. The new themes (and the statistical releases which will appear under each theme) can be viewed on our Beta website, at beta.abs.gov.au/statistics.html#labour (<https://beta.abs.gov.au/statistics.html#labour>)..

The changes will be implemented on the ABS website on Friday 25 March 2022.

The new themes will be:

- Employment and unemployment
- Jobs
- Earnings and working conditions
- Labour Accounts

Weekly payroll jobs and wages statistics will move from the 'Earnings and work hours' theme (abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/) to the new 'Jobs' theme (abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/jobs/).

The key changes to the current 'Employment and unemployment' and 'Earnings and work hours' themes include:

- addition of a 'Jobs' theme - to reflect the increasing range of jobs-related data ABS is releasing – including Weekly payroll jobs and wages and Jobs in Australia (currently in 'Earnings and work hours'), in addition to the longstanding statistics on Job vacancies and Job mobility (currently in 'Employment and unemployment').
- addition of a 'Labour Accounts' theme - for cross-cutting quarterly and annual labour account data on jobs, people, hours and payments (currently in 'Employment and unemployment').
- renaming the 'Earnings and work hours' theme to 'Earnings and working conditions' - to provide a clearer pathway the large range of information available on working conditions beyond wages (work arrangements, flexibility, workplace relations, etc) and reflect that key hours data are available from the 'Employment and unemployment' theme (from the monthly Labour Force Survey) and the Labour Account.

While these changes will result in a change to the placement of some statistical releases, and some URLs, there will be automatic redirects in place. These redirects will ensure that existing URLs and bookmarks will continue to work.

Expansion of outputs

Payroll job outputs will be expanded over 2022, however the availability in specific releases is yet to be determined. In alphabetical order, the planned outputs are:

- Employment size by industry division
- Industry division by Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4)
- Private sector by state/territory
- State by industry subdivision

Previous articles

Previously published articles and information of interest are linked below:

- [Seasonality spotlight \(/articles/seasonality-spotlight-2021-year-end\)](#) describes the most recent seasonal changes in the labour market
- [Distribution of jobholder and employer characteristics \(/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics\)](#) provides selected distributions to aid in interpreting estimates produced from STP data
- [A year of COVID-19 through payroll jobs and wages statistics \(/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics\)](#) reviews payroll jobs and wages in the year since Australia's 100th case of COVID-19
- [Year-end data variability \(/articles/year-end-data-variability\)](#) provides some context on seasonality and seasonal variation
- [Secondary jobs \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-17-october-2020#secondary-jobs\)](#) provides insight into multiple jobholders
- [Incorporating JobKeeper supported payments into Weekly payroll jobs and wages in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-30-may-2020#incorporating-jobkeeper-supported-back-payments-into-weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-in-australia\)](#) describes how JobKeeper payments are included

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6160.0.55.001.

Methodology

[Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia methodology, Week ending 12 February 2022](#)